

20th CONGRESS,
1st Session.

[184]

MEMORIAL

OF

GARSED, RAINES, AND CO.

OF

FRANKFORD, PHILADELPHIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA,

PRAYING THAT AN

ADDITIONAL DUTY

BE LAID ON

YARNS, THREADS, AND TWINES, MADE OF FLAX,

WHEN IMPORTED.

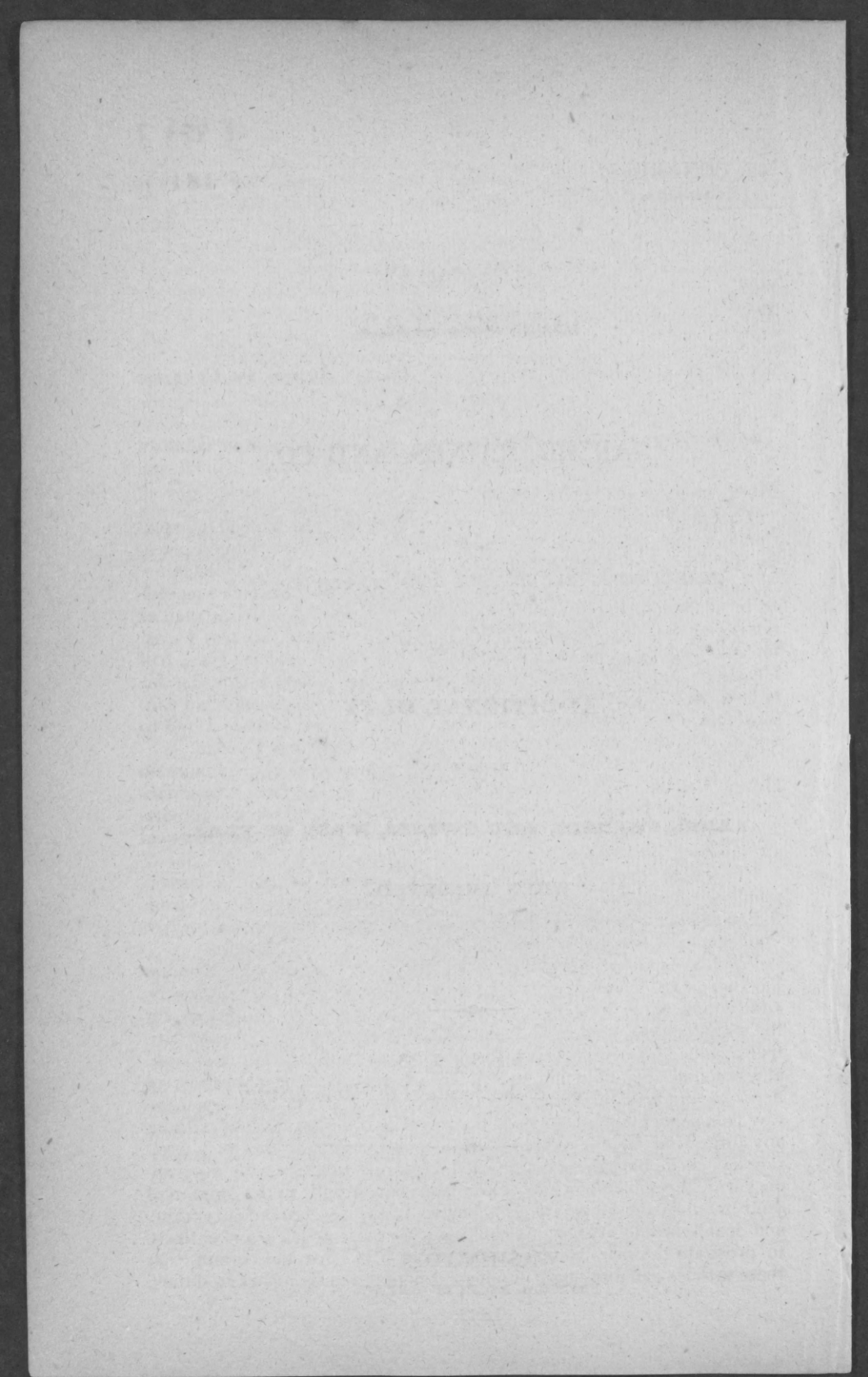
APRIL 30, 1828.

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WASHINGTON:

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1828.



MEMORIAL.

To the Honorable the Senate of the United States, in Congress assembled;

The memorial of Garsed, Raines, & Co. of Frankford, in the County of Philadelphia, and State of Pennsylvania,

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH:

That your memorialists have, at great expense, and with great exertion and anxiety, established a manufactory, at the above named place, for the purpose of hatchelling, preparing and spinning flax, by machinery, in the best and most approved manner; and that they have succeeded in manufacturing a number of useful and necessary articles, such as sewing or *sail twines*, *shoe threads*, *flax yarns*, and flax tow yarns, for hair seating, boot webbing, floor cloths in oil, and for gray, half bleached, and full bleached linen threads, and colored threads, for tailors, and other useful purposes, which have been sold and consumed in most of the principal cities in the Union, and are found to equal, in every respect, the same articles imported from Europe.

Your memorialists likewise respectfully represent to your Honorable House, that the importation and consumption of the flaxen manufactures they have enumerated, are of considerable magnitude and importance; equal or superior in amount to sail duck, and entitled to equal attention and protection.

But the proposed additional duty upon raw flax, without a corresponding increase of duty upon threads, yarns and twines made from flax, will seriously injure, if not entirely prostrate the manufactory of your memorialists, and others engaged in similar establishments.

Further, your memorialists respectfully represent to your Honorable Body, that the present low rate of duties upon flax yarns, threads, and twines, made from flax, do not form an adequate protection for the manufacturer here, against the British manufacturer. As the British manufacturer imports his flax from other countries into England, at a nominal duty of about one dollar per ton, and the manufacturer here, having now to pay an ad valorem duty of 15 per cent. upon the raw flax, which includes the tow as well as flax, leaves him without any protection by the existing tariff; consequently, if the duty upon raw flax be increased, as is proposed, without increasing the duty upon yarns, threads and twines, made from flax, it will, in the opinion of your memorialists, operate as a bounty to the foreign manufacturer, and enable him to deluge this country with these articles, and entirely to prostrate the manufacturer here; while it is clear and certain, that these articles can and ought, under a different regulation as to duties,

to be made at home, which would also cause the raw material ultimately to be produced in sufficient abundance and of good quality, at home, also.

Your memorialists, further, most respectfully state to your Honorable House, that the protection of flax yarns, threads and twines, against the foreign manufacturer, must be equal to the protection of the farmers against the foreign flax grower: otherwise the foreign flax grower and foreign flax manufacturer, will have the American market for these articles entirely to themselves, and the foreign farmer will have a still greater advantage than merely growing the raw flax, in supplying the foreign manufacturer with all the rest of farm produce, whilst these manufactures are being produced.

Thus your memorialists most respectfully urge upon your Honorable House, that without adequate protection be afforded to the manufacturer in conjunction with the farmer, the hopes and expectations of the farmer will be entirely disappointed, as foreign manufacturers will, without this, continue their ascendancy, and purchasers to any extent will not be found for improved American flax when it is grown.

Your memorialists beg, most respectfully, further to state to your Honorable House, that they anxiously labored for between three and four years to manufacture yarns, threads and twines from domestic flax, but were compelled to give it up, because of its inferiority, in strength, cleanness and bleaching, and which inferiority they entirely attribute to bad management in its cultivation, in its sowing, pulling, retting and cleaning; all which might be remedied if the farmers were to deem it an object of sufficient importance, and grow it for flax, rather than for the seed. Your memorialists, therefore, most respectfully represent, that if the proposed duty upon raw flax be retained, the present comparatively low duty upon flax yarns, threads and twines, may be advanced 15 per cent. in aid of the revenue, without public injury or inconvenience; and from the disposition of your Honorable House to favor the agricultural interest of our country, bounties might be granted, out of these additional duties, to such of the growers of flax as would produce an article of such quality as would supersede the imported, and which your memorialists verily believe would materially advance the proper cultivation of hemp and wool, as well as flax, and essentially promote the interests of our country.

Finally, your memorialists most respectfully state to your Honorable House, that, with all their skill, economy and experience, resulting from the practice of flax spinning upon a large scale, for nearly twenty years at Leeds, in England, they have not hitherto been able to derive a living profit from their manufacturing establishment, although it has now been five years in operation, and their want of success is *entirely* owing to the inadequate protection afforded this branch of manufacture by the tariff of 1824. But your memorialists confidently hope, that your Honorable House will, in its wisdom, make such an addition to the duty on the importation of flax yarns, threads and twines, as will protect them from ruin, and will enable them to persevere in their exertions to increase the manufacture in which they are

now engaged, and by this means to promote the interests of this, the country of their choice; and which will ever demand the high respect and regard of your memorialists.

GARSED, RAINES & Co.

Frankford, Pennsylvania, April 25, 1828.

FRANKFORD (near Philadelphia,) FLAX FACTORY, }
25th April, 1828. }

HON. SIR: Observing the Tariff bill to have passed the House of Representatives, with an addition to the duty upon raw flax, without any additional duty upon *threads, yarns, and twines*, which we are engaged in making from *flax*, we have taken the liberty to trouble you with the enclosed memorial to the Senate on this subject. In doing this, we beg to say, that as the duties now stand, we are left without protection. We pay 15 per cent. ad valorem, upon *rough* flax, which we import from Russia, Prussia and Holland, and which being upon the tow as well as flax, makes the duty upon the dressed flax, from which we make threads, yarns and twines, fully equal to the duty of 25 per cent. ad valorem, which is paid on these articles when imported. One-third in value and near two-thirds in quantity of the *rough* flax is dressed into tow, which cannot be made into any but low priced articles, that will not bear one-fourth of their proportion of duty, which causes the duty to fall chiefly upon the dressed flax, from which we make our threads, twines and yarns, such as are imported.

For the encouragement of the growth of domestic flax, which we especially wish to promote, we are quite in favour of a sufficient duty upon flax imported; but this must also be attended by a corresponding duty upon threads, yarns and twines made from flax, when imported manufactured, or we shall not be able to continue to manufacture.

The British manufacturer imports his flax from Russia, Prussia and Holland, on a nominal duty of about one dollar per ton, and as he only sends articles manufactured from the dressed flax, and pays only 25 per cent. duty here, he now meets us here on equal terms; which, considering the superior facilities afforded in England for manufacturing purposes, becomes an unequal contest for us. This being the case as the duty now stands, an additional duty upon the raw flax, without an additional duty upon threads, yarns, and twines made from flax, becomes a premium to the foreign flax manufacturer, to send his goods here, and in this way, the advantage will be entirely lost to the farmer, as these articles, being imported manufactured, have all the labor and farm produce consumed in their manufacture upon them, which ought to be put upon them by their manufacture here; thus destroying the market to the farmer, both as to raw material and the produce consumed in their fabrication.

We most earnestly crave your attention to this subject. We also beg

reference to the honorable members of the House of Representatives from this district; and from the office you sustain in the Committee on manufactures, we feel great confidence that you will succeed in obtaining such an addition to the existing duties upon *flax, yarns, threads* and *twines*, as will save us from the necessity of giving up our present manufacturing pursuits, and, if successful, will become an object of great national importance.

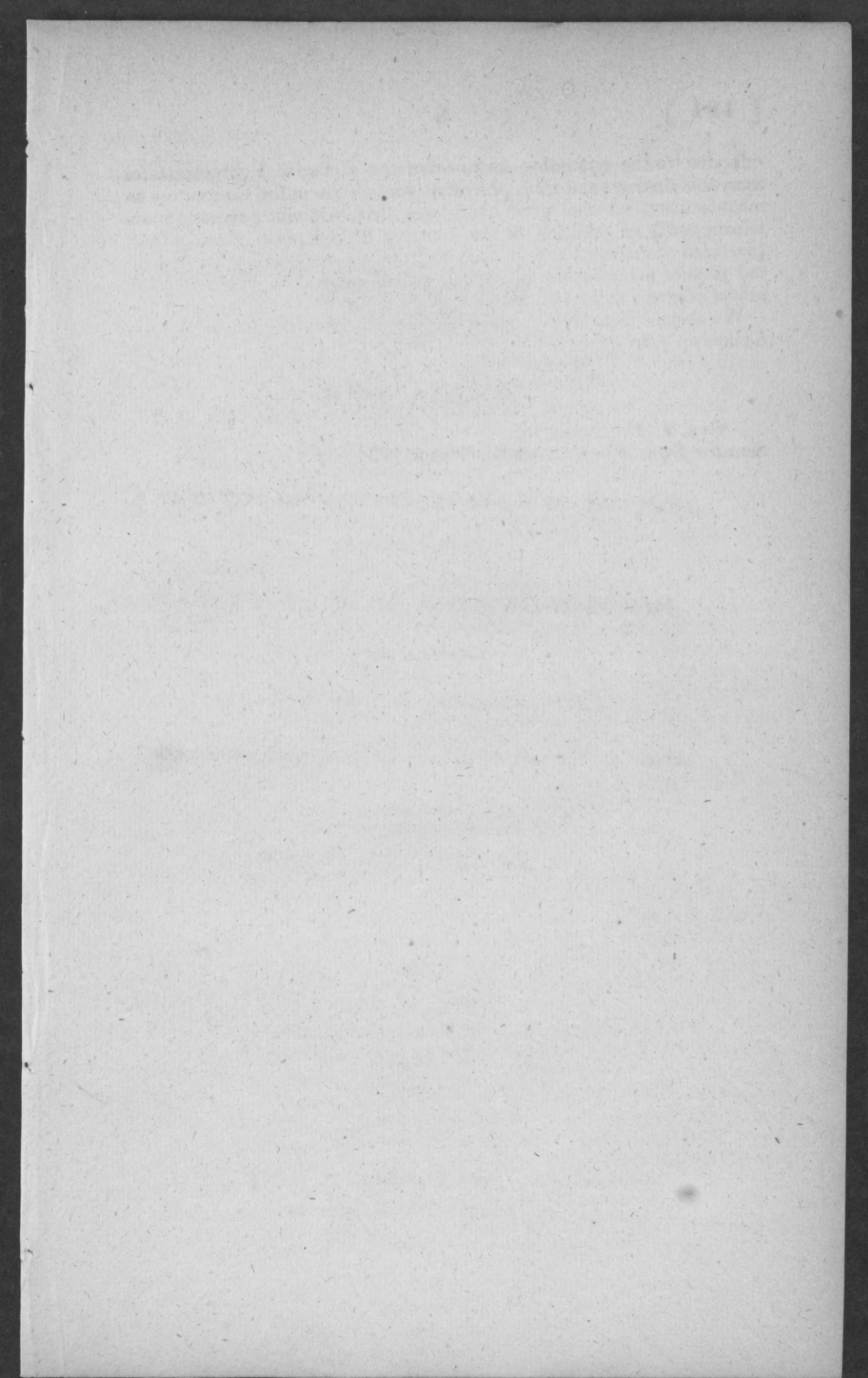
We abstain from further remarks, from an unwillingness to trespass further on your valuable time.

We are, Honorable Sir,

Your very obedient servants,

GARSED, RAINES, & CO.

Gen. J. D. BARNARD,
Senator from Pennsylvania—Washington.



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